

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 MEXICO 03641 261918Z

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7453

AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION WASHDC

UNCLAS MEXICO 3641

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OGEN, MX

SUBJECT: AMERICAN CEMETERY

ABMC FOR GEN. ADAMS

1. ON APRIL 22, 1975 AGREEMENT WAS FINALLY AND CONCLUSIVELY REACHED ON WORDING OF PYLON INSCRIPTION QTE TO THE HONORED MEMORY OF 750 AMERICANS, KNOWN BUT TO GOD, WHOSE BONES COLLECTED BY THEIR COUNTRY'S ORDER, ARE HERE BURIED. END QTE. ON APRIL 24, 1975 EMBOFF MET WITH FEDERAL DISTRICT (DDF) PLANNING CHIEF AND DISCUSSED NEXT PROCEDURAL STEPS TO BE TAKEN.

2. WE PROPOSE AN EXCHANGE OF LETTERS BETWEEN AMBASSADOR AND FEDERAL DISTRICT REGENT (WHOSE LETTER TO AMBASSADOR OF APRIL 25, 1973 INITIATED THIS MATTER) WHICH WILL SERVE AS A FORMAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES ON THE USG'S RELINQUISHMENT OF PORTION OF ITS PROPERTY TO THE GOM IN RETURN FOR A MAJOR RECONFIGURATION OF THE CEMETERY AND A NUMBER OF SITE MODIFICATIONS.

3. OUR LETTER, AS IT NOW STANDS IN DRAFT, READS AS FOLLOWS:
QTE FOLLOWING RECENT CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN OFFICIALS OF OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS I AM PLEASED TO CONFIRM THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES IS PREPARED TO TRANSFER TITLE OF A 14.5 M STRIP OF LAND, FORMING PART OF THE UNITED STATES NATIONAL CEMETERY IN TLAXPANA, TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MEXICO FOR USE IN COMPLETION OF THE INNER LOOP SPEEDWAY PROJECT IN EXCHANGE FOR
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 MEXICO 03641 261918Z

THE INDEMNIFICATION SPECIFIED HEREIN. THE GOVERNMENT OF MEXICO,

AT ITS OWN EXPENSE, AND WITHIN 180 DAYS OF THE DATE TITLE TO THE LAND FORMALLY PASSES TO IT, SHALL COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING:

(1) CONSTRUCT A NEW WEST WALL: (A) 4.6 M. HIGH, 110 M. LONG AND APPROXIMATELY 65 CM THICK. PRECISE HEIGHT OF THE WALL TO BE DETERMINED BY THE ELEVATION OF THE NEW ROAD TO PREVENT SCALING FROM THE OUTSIDE. (B) WALL TO BE OF MASONRY CONSTRUCTION ON AN ADEQUATE FOUNDATION AND BUTTRESSED IF NECESSARY TO RETAIN THE LOAD FROM THE OUTSIDE. NO INTERIOR FINISH IS REQUIRED AS IVY IS PLANNED WHERE THE WALL TO BE EXPOSED.

(2) WALL CRYPTS (NICHES): (A) A TOTAL OF 820 CRYPTS IN THE EXISTING EAST AND NEW WEST WALLS WILL BE REQUIRED, WITH 410 CRYPTS ON EACH SIDE. CRYPTS WILL MEASURE 60 X 60 X 60 CM. THE CRYPTS WILL HAVE 6 CM. WALLS OF REINFORCED CONCRETE AND REST ON AN ADEQUATE FOUNDATION WITH A 20 CM. BASE. THE ROOFS WILL BE SLOPED TO CARRY THE WATER TO THE REAR OR EXTERIOR OF THE CEMETERY. (B) THE CRYPTS WILL HAVE A MARBLE FACING 2.5 CM. THICK AND WILL BE PROPERLY INSCRIBED. THE MARBLE FACING MAY BE OF MONOLYTHIC CONSTRUCTION ETCHED TO GIVE THE EFFECT OF SEPARATE COVERS. (C) THE CRYPTS WILL BE IN FIVE TIERS.

(3) MASS GRAVE AND MEMORIAL: (A) THE MASS GRAVE WILL BE RELOCATED TO THE SITE SHOWN ON THE DRAWING. IT WILL HOLD 10.7 CUBIC METERS, BEING 2.5 METERS SQUARE AND 1.7 DEEP. IT WILL BE CONSTRUCTED OF MASONRY. (B) THE ROOF OF THE GRAVE WILL BE OF REINFORCED CONCRETE OF SUFFICIENT STRENGTH TO CARRY THE WEIGHT OF THE MEMORIAL AND NEW BASE. IT WILL BE COVERED WITH TOPSOIL TO PERMIT PLANTING OF IVY. (C) THE MEMORIAL WILL BE RAISED ON A NEW BASE ONE METER HIGH. THE INSCRIPTIONS ON THE REAR OF THE MEMORIAL MAY BE REMOVED AND BE REPLACED WITH STONE MATCHING THE EXISTING STONE. THE INSCRIPTION IN FRONT, SHALL READ AS FOLLOWS: TO THE HONORED MEMORY OF 750 AMERICANS, KNOWN BUT TO GOD, WHOSE BONES COLLECTED BY THEIR COUNTRY'S ORDER, ARE HERE BURIED.

(4) DISINTERMENT OF REMAINS: (A) MACHINE EXCAVATION MAY BE USED TO WITHIN ONE FOOT OF THE REMAINS. HAND EXCAVATION WILL BE USED THEREAFTER. (B) THE REMAINS WILL BE COLLECTED AND PLACED IN STURDY PLASTIC BAGS AND TAGGED TO RETAIN IDENTIFY. (C) THE BAGGED REMAINS WILL BE PROPERLY STORED IN A SECURE AREA

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 MEXICO 03641 261918Z

TO PREVENT DAMAGE FROM WEATHER OR LOOTING.

(5) LANDSCAPING: (A) THE FOUNTAIN AND EXISTING WALKS WILL BE RETAINED AS SHOWN ON THE DRAWING. APPROXIMATELY 90 METERS OF NEW WALK IS REQUIRED AND WILL BE OF SAME CONSTRUCTION AS THE OLD. (B) THE TWO FLAG POLES WILL BE 9 METERS HIGH. (C) A NEW STORAGE AREA IS REQUIRED AT THE SOUTH END OF THE CEMETERY. IT WILL CONSIST OF A CONCRETE BLOCK SHED 9.14 METERS 3.65

METERS DEEP AND 3.65 METERS HIGH. THERE WILL BE AN ACCESS GATE AND A PAVED AREA 443 SQUARE METERS. THIS SERVICE AREA WILL BE SHIELDED BY APPROPRIATE PLANTINGS. (D) THERE WILL BE LOW FLOWERING PLANTINGS BETWEEN THE WALKS AND THE CRYPTS.

(6) SUPERINTENDENT'S QUARTERS: (A) THE NEW SUPERINTENDENT'S QUARTERS WILL BE LOCATED AS SHOWN ON THE DRAWING. IT WILL CONTAIN AN OFFICE AND RECEPTION ROOM ON THE EAST SIDE AND SERVANT'S QUARTERS ON THE WEST SIDE. (B) THE LAYOUT WILL BE AS SHOWN ON THE CONCEPT DRAWING. (C) THE SPECIFICATIONS WILL BE THE SAME AS DESIGNED BY INARCO FOR NEW QUARTERS ALREADY DESIGNED. THIS LISTING REPRESENTS THE SPECIFIC POINTS AGREED BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FEDERAL DISTRICT DEPARTMENT AND THE AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION IN MEETINGS HELD AT MEXICO CITY ON NOVEMBER 25, 1974. ALL WORK IS TO BE CARRIED OUT WITH THE APPROVAL IN ADVANCE OF US GOVERNMENT EXPERTS DESIGNATED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

I PROPOSE THAT, IF IT IS ACCEPTABLE TO THE FOREIGN RELATIONS SECRETARIAT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF MEXICO, THIS LETTER AND YOUR CONFIRMATORY REPLY SHALL CONSTITUTE AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS BASED ON WHICH TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP AND TITLE TO THE AFFECTED LAND CAN THEN BE ACCOMPLISHED.

I TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO REITERATE TO YOU THE ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION AND PERSONAL ESTEEM. END QTE..

4. IF STATE AND ABMC INTERPOSE NO OBJECTION, WE WILL PRESENT DRAFT OF OUR LETTER TO DDF TO OBTAIN AGREEMENT IN DETAIL ON EACH POINT. PLANNING CHIEF INDICATED DURING APRIL 24TH MEETING, WHEN WE SHOWED HER OUTLINE DRAFT, THAT THIS PROCEDURE MOST LIKELY TO SUCCEED.

5. IN COURSE OF DISCUSSION PLANNING CHIEF ASKED FOR USG
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 MEXICO 03641 261918Z

DECISION ON SPECIFIC MANNER IN WHICH WORK AT CEMETERY SITE TO BE ORGANIZED. SHE SAID IT IS USG'S OPTION, ACCORDING REGENT'S INSTRUCTIONS, TO ASK DDF TO MANAGE AND SUPERVISE PROJECT USING CONTRACTORS AND CITY EMPLOYEES OR, ALTERNATIVELY, TO OBTAIN ESTIMATES FOR WHOLE JOB FROM AS MANY LOCAL CONTRACTORS AS IT DESIRES, PROVIDE OUR OWN PROJECT SUPERVISION AND DDF WILL DEFRAY ALL CONTRACT EXPENSES. SHE EXPRESSED PARTICULAR CONCERN ABOUT SPECIFICATIONS FOR SUPERINTENDENT'S HOUSE, SAYING DDF WOULD NEED MUCH ASSISTANCE TO ENSURE IT DESIGNED AND COMPLETED TO USG'S SATISFACTION, ESPECIALLY IF JOB LEFT TO DDF.

6. IF WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED OTHER INSTRUCTIONS IN MEANTIME, WE WILL PRESENT OUR DRAFT AT THE NEXT MEETING WITH DDF OFFICIALS, WHICH THEY ARE LIKELY TO CALL FOR APRIL 30TH. IT WILL BE HELPFUL TO HAVE ABMC'S VIEWS ON CONSTRUCTION/SUPERVISION

QUESTION BEFORE THEN.

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